

people, the consequences oftentimes are fatal. So I think that the problem is an acute one, one that is specific and is definable. The other concern, and this...these, the amendments which I am attempting to amend by striking Sections (g) and (h), if you would read them, appear to, as I said, to be very broad in scope, and maybe they are intended to specifically deal with a particular circumstance. But if you are in a situation where an individual, a minor can possess a firearm at home or on someone else's property with some general permission as being the indicia allowing that to happen, you have opened up a Pandora's box in this bill. Another concern that I have is that parental responsibility is totally missing. Section (h), which talks about possessing a firearm at home by a minor, is...apparently this section would allow a parent...Mr. Speaker, may I have a gavel, please.

SPEAKER WITHEM: (Gavel.) Would members please give some attention to the speaker.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Section (h), which would allow with parents' permission a minor to possess a gun at home, apparently, at least in my reading, would...I would interpret it to mean that if an individual minor, for example, the tragic case in Millard, in Omaha, the Chinowth case, where a 14-year-old boy shot a 14-year-old girl with a gun that was lying on top of the ice box with ammunition next to it, that if the defense could be that, well, my parents allowed me to possess that firearm and that that would be some sort of a defense to that act. There is no component or piece of that amendment which deals at all with parental responsibility. So what you've got is somewhat of a blanket exception to the possession of a minor of a firearm, at least around the house. Also, again, I am very concerned with the end, and I might suggest that all of us, I think, are aware of incidents in our communities where...certainly, I am in Omaha, where we've had a rash of these incidents where minors are getting ahold of handguns especially, discharging them accidentally. There was an incident last year involving a Peruvian exchange student who was accidentally shot by a...at a party by another fellow student at Creighton Prep. And these incidents are...continue to escalate because we don't impose at all, anywhere in our statutes, any parental responsibility in these cases. And what we're doing by this amendment is, in fact, enlarging the opportunity for those accidents to occur because we don't, number one, don't impose any parental responsibility, and, number two, we apparently allow this kind